

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 9, 16, and 21 have been amended.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Final Office Action dated January 27, 2006 (the “Final Office Action”), claims 1, 3, 6, 9-14, and 16-21 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,006,192 issued to Cheng et al. (“*Cheng*”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,930,762 issued to Masch (“*Masch*”). Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15, and 22 stood rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cheng* in view of *Masch* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,453,303 issued to Li. (“*Li*”). These rejections were maintained in the Advisory Action dated April 12, 2006.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, and 16. In light of these amendments, Applicant reiterates the position, as presented in the Applicant’s Response (dated March 27, 2006) to the Final Office Action, that the claims are allowable under § 103(a).

In light of the amendments presented herein, and the arguments presented in Applicant’s Response to the Final Office Action, which apply with equal force hereto, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 1, 9, and 16 are allowable, for at least the reasons stated therein. Moreover, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 2-8, 10-15, and 17-22, which depend variously from independent claims 1, 9, and 16, are also allowable, for at least the same reasons.

The Final Office Action proposed that a limitation of claim 1 needed clarification. The Final Office Action stated:

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., "the component plan includes information specified prior to the ensuing analysis, rather than being formulated during the course of analysis") are not recited in the rejected claims(s).

Final Office Action at 6. This argument was a necessary component of the Final Office Action's reasoning for continuing the rejection of claim 1.

Applicant believes that the relationship in claim 1 was clear according to the plain language of the claim. Nonetheless, in order to further prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 1 further to clarify the relationship discussed in the Final Office Action. As amended, claim 1 reads as follows.

1. A computer-implemented method for risk analysis under uncertainty, the method comprising the steps of:
capturing assumptions to create a scenario for one or more products for one or more time planning periods;
specifying a component plan to be analyzed, the component plan identifying the quantities of each component that are positioned for each planning period;
and
submitting a request for analysis to an analytic engine for calculation of risk and performance indicators, **wherein the specifying a component plan to be analyzed is performed prior to the submitting the request for analysis**, the request for analysis including one or more analysis parameters and identifying the scenario and component plan.

(Emphasis added.)

Applicant respectfully submits that, as amended, claim 1 overcomes the rejection set forth in the Final Office Action. In particular, the amendment to claim 1 fully addresses a necessary component of the Final Office Action's reasoning for maintaining the rejection of claim 1. The amendment addresses the Final Office Action's contention that the claim does not clearly specify the temporal relationship between "specifying a component plan to be analyzed" and "submitting the request for analysis." In light of this amendment, therefore, the argument underlying the continued rejection of claim 1 is traversed. At least for this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable under § 103(a).

Further, additional limitations of claim 1 are also not disclosed in the cited art, as set forth in Applicant's Response to the Final Office Action. For example, among the limitations of independent claim 1 is the act of **specifying a component plan to be analyzed, the component plan identifying the quantities of each component that are positioned for each planning period**. The Final Office Action argues that this limitation is presented in *Cheng*, and cites a portion of that reference that discloses a list of mathematical quantities for a materials planning problem. As discussed in Applicant's Response to the Final Office Action, the quantities include variables $Q_{i,t}$, $Q_{i,0}$, $X_{i,t}$, and a_{ij} , which represent components in the materials planning problem of *Cheng*. No other aspect of the cited passage describes amounts of components; thus, these four variables are the only aspects of the cited passage that may possibly correspond to the claim limitation regarding a "component plan identifying the quantities of each component that are to be positioned for each planning period."

However, none of the four variables in *Cheng* are quantities that are specified as an input to be analyzed. Rather, they are internal variables used by a mathematical analysis in *Cheng*. In contrast, claim 1 includes specifying a component plan to be analyzed *prior* to the ensuing

analysis. Since the Cheng variables are not specified prior to the analysis, they do not meet the limitation recited in the claim of **a component plan identifying the quantities of each component that are to be positioned for each planning period, wherein the specifying a component plan to be analyzed is performed prior to the submitting the request for analysis.**

Applicant also does not find this limitation in *Masch* or in *Li*. Since this limitation is not disclosed in the cited art, independent claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom are allowable under § 103(a). At least for similar reasons, independent claims 9 and 16 and all claims dependent therefrom are also allowable under § 103(a).

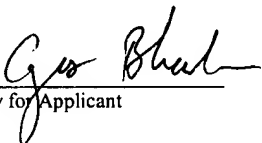
Further, the component plan in claim 1 identifies quantities of each component **for each planning period**. As discussed in the Response to the Final Office Action, *Cheng* does not teach that such quantities should be specified throughout a series of planning periods. Thus, this limitation is also not present in *Cheng*, which has the entry of (at most) only one initial inventory $Q_{i,0}$, which occurs (if at all) at the beginning of an entire planning horizon.

Additionally, as described in the Response to the Final Office Action, none of the variables in *Cheng* is a quantity of components **positioned for each planning period**, as set forth in independent claim 1. Nor, as described in the Response to the Final Office Action, does the cited art disclose that **the components include uninventoried available components**, as required in independent claim 9. For these reasons as well, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are allowable under § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

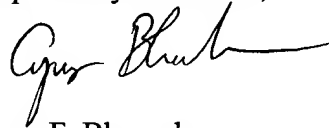
In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia, 22313-1450, on May 30, 2006.


Attorney for Applicant

2006 MAY 30
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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